

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Kaibab National Forest

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Local Agencies to Host Firewise Workshop in Valle

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – The Kaibab National Forest will team with the Arizona State Land Department, Valle Fire Board, Tusayan Fire Department, Howard Mesa Property Owner's Association, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and the Arizona Firewise Communities Program to host a seminar Saturday (April 8) intended to help local community members prepare for fire season.

The Valle Arizona Firewise Communities Seminar, which is free to all attendees, will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Valle Airport, which is located at the intersection of highways 180 and 64. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will include information on protecting homes and property from wildland fire, forest and landscape health in the pinyon-juniper ecosystem, forest conditions on the Kaibab National Forest, and the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program.

The seminar will also include an update from the Valle Fire Board and a panel discussion focusing on checkerboard land ownership, forest health issues, forest insects and diseases, community fire protection, wildland fire response, medical emergency response and emergency planning.

The goals of the seminar are to provide an opportunity for community dialogue to address wildland fire risks and hazards, and to share solutions for living in a fire-prone environment.

“We want people to know the risks associated with living in the wildland/urban interface, and what they can do to reduce those risks,” said Alix Rogstad, fire education specialist with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. “We also want to encourage community members to become more engaged with their local fire departments to protect their community from catastrophic loss due to wildfire.”

Launched in fall 2002, the Arizona Firewise Communities Program has offered more than 50 seminars and workshops in various Arizona communities. Seminars and workshops are free and open to all interested community members. Information presented focuses on the realities of preparedness planning and successful implementation as well as what individuals can do to reduce their risks.

For further information on the Firewise seminar or to pre-register, please call Alix Rogstad at 520-621-2793.

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